

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 237616

61

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AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, UN

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION TO YUGOSLAVS ON KHMER REPRESENTATION QUESTION

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESEL CALLED IN YUGOSLAV MINISTER-COUNSELOR PETKOVIC DECEMBER 4 (YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR WAS OUT OF TOWN) TO DISCUSS KHMER REPRESENTATION QUESTION. STOESEL BEGAN BY NOTING THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD ASKED HIM TO CALL PETKOVIC IN AND TO MAKE VERY CLEAR THE US POSITION ABOUT THE RESOLUTION CURRENTLY BEFORE THE UNGA WHICH PROPOSES THE OUSTER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AND THE RESTORATION OF THE "LAWFUL RIGHTS" OF THE PRO-SIHANOUK REGIME. HE THEN MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. US HAD STRONGLY OPPOSED INSCRIPTION OF THIS ITEM
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PAGE 02 STATE 237616

AND EVEN VOTED AGAINST IT IN THE UN BECAUSE IT CONSTITUTES

UN INTERFERENCE IN AN INTERNAL CAMBODIAN MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE LEFT TO CAMBODIANS THEMSELVES.

B. UN RECOGNITION OF AN EXILED GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD LITTLE ROLE IN A COUNTRY ITSELF AND WHOSE LEADERS WERE AT ODDS AMONG THEMSELVES WOULD ESTABLISH AN UNWISE PRECEDENT.

C. REMOVAL OF SIHANOUK IN 1970 WAS NOT A PRODUCT OF A PALACE COUP PERPETRATED BY FOREIGN POWERS BUT WAS RESULT OF POPULAR DISAFFECTION AND DISCONTENT WITH THE

EXISTING SITUATION.

D. US FEELS THAT COURSE PURSUED BY PRO-SIHANOUK SUPPORTERS IN UN, EVEN IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL NOT CHANGE THE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA BUT WILL ONLY PROLONG THE DISPUTE, CREATING MORE SUFFERING FOR THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE.

E. ALL COUNTRIES SINCERELY INTERESTED IN PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SHOULD WORK FOR RECONCILIATION OF THE TWO SIDES RATHER THAN PUBLIC CONFRONTATION IN THE UNGA.

2. US UNDERSTANDS, STOESSEL OBSERVED, THAT AMONG MANY UN MEMBERS THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON THE PROSPECT FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE AREA, THE CRITERIA USED IN THE RECOGNITION OF STATES, AND THE QUESTION OF NON-INTERFERENCE BY THE UN IN A COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AS RESULT OF THESE CONCERNS, THERE IS GENERAL SYMPATHY FOR DEFERRING CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE UNTIL THE 29TH UNGA IN 1974. SUCH DEFERRAL WOULD ENABLE THE CAMBODIANS TO RESOLVE THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES.

3. ALTHOUGH THE US WOULD NOT ITSELF PROPOSE DEFERRAL, US WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT IT IF IT SHOULD BE PROPOSED. BECAUSE US FEELS REASONS FOR DEFERRAL SHOULD BE APPEALING TO GOY, US HOPES GOY WOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT A MOTION FOR DEFERRAL.

4. KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE US, STOESSEL NOTED. LOOKING AT THIS ISSUE OBJECTIVELY, US FEELS IT IS RATHER REMOTE FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 237616

VITAL YUGOSLAV INTERESTS. IN USG VIEW, THIS ISSUE FALLS WITHIN CATEGORY OF ISSUES, WHICH STOESSEL HAD DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR GRANFIL OCTOBER 9 (STATE 200523), OF OBVIOUS INTEREST TO US AND OF PERIPHERAL INTEREST TO YUGOSLAVIA.

5. PETKOVIC INDICATED HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY OF US VIEWS ON DEFERRAL OF ISSUE OF KHMER REPRE-

SENTATION. THE QUESTION OF CAMBODIA, PETKOVIC CONTINUED, HAS BECOME AN ITEM OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN TO ALL NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. RECENT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS (NAC) HAD TAKEN POSITION THAT SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT WAS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA. PRESENTLY, NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES ARE MORE DETERMINED THAN EVEN BEFORE TO PUT THEIR VIEWS INTO PRACTICE. THEREFORE, PETKOVIC BELIEVED IT WOULD BE HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT IT WAS OBLIGED TO PUT THE DECISION OF THE NAC INTO EFFECT.

STOESSEL URGED AGAIN THAT YUGOSLAVIA CONSIDER DESIRABILITY OF SUPPORTING IDEA OF DEFERRAL UNTIL 1974.

6. PETKOVIC RAISED SUBJECT OF WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL (DECEMBER 1) WHICH SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF SERBIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE AND DREW ANALOGY BETWEEN SUCH A GOVERNMENT AND SIHANOUK GOVERNMENT. STOESSEL SAID POST WAS NOT SPEAKING FOR USG, BUT NOTED THAT QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT IN EXILE WAS SOMETHING ALL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD WEIGH CAREFULLY. KISSINGER

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